

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: This report pertains to a perceived error in the identification of a member of the Commonwealth Forces, during the Great War 1914-1921.	SUBMITTED TO: CWGC Commemorations Section Commonwealth War Graves Commission 2 Marlow Road Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX United Kingdom Email: commemorations@cwgc.org
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Report Date: 20 September 2019

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity		Burial Location Identified	
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity	X	Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Dickinson, William John	i	Adanac Military Cemetery	link
2 nd R.M.L.I., 63 rd RND	i	Miraumont, Somme	i
Private #CH/1354(S)	i	Plot 1 Row B Grave 35	i
Death: 28 April 1917	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Graves Registration Report	1	War Diary Extract(s)	7
Concentration of Grave	2	Historical Texts	8
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CWGC Database	6	Other	

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 1 Row B Grave 35 of the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont lists [Private W. J. Dickinson # CH/1354\(S\)](#) of the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

The historical evidence is clear that this is a case of mistaken identity, as neither Private Dickinson, nor any member of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division was anywhere near this area in April 1917. The original data entries refer to a person by the name of "Bickinson", with a service number "1357", and a unit affiliation "R.M.L.I.". All of the other details were added or modified at a later date to agree with the presumption that this was the grave of Private Dickinson.

Preamble

The case of Private Dickinson, as well as that as the case of Private Hilton, came as a result of the investigation into another reported case of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division, namely:

- [Company Sergeant Major Rogers – CWGC Case No. 631](#)

Subsequent to that submission, I have prepared and now am submitting one (1) new case for the identification of Lieutenant Wainwright and two (2) additional cases for incorrect identifications:

- [Lieutenant Oswald Johnson Wainwright – CWGC Case No. xxx](#)
- [Private George Mellon Hilton – CWGC Case No. xxx](#)
- [Private William John Dickinson – CWGC Case No. xxx](#)

During the investigation into CSM Rogers it was discovered that Privates [W. J. Dickinson](#) (2nd/R.M.L.I.) and [G. M. Hilton](#) (1st/RMLI.), both being units of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division, were reported buried in cemeteries where they could not have been concentrated. Both had been killed near Gavrelle, McMaster Map **[Arras] 51b** on 28 April 1917. Both sets of remains were recovered from the battlefield more than 20 miles southwest of Gavrelle, McMaster Map **[Albert] 51d**.

It was brought to our attention that the misidentification of Privates Dickinson and Hilton had been noted “some years ago” during the compilation of the Roll of Honour for the Royal Marine Light Infantry. For additional details see “*Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War, 1914-1924*” ([Ancestry.ca](#) or [Ancestry.co.uk](#)). It is not known why the errors were not “officially” reported nor the corrections made by the CWGC. My only assumption can be that a report was never completed and filed.

- Database entry for [Private George Mellon Hilton](#)
- Database entry for [Private William John Dickinson](#)

As part of the prior research noted above, a detailed review was undertaken of the location of the units of the [63rd \(Royal Naval\) Division](#) during the Great War. The division was involved in action in France during the following periods described in Blumberg’s text “[Britain’s Sea Solders](#)” and as listed on the [Long, Long Trail](#) as:

- Battle of Ancre (Somme 13-18 November 1916) - Somme
- Operations on the Ancre (January-March 1917) - Somme
- The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April 1917) – Arras, Pas-de-Calais
- The Battle of Arleux (28-29 April 1917) - Arras, Pas-de-Calais
- The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March 1918) - Somme
- Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March 1918) – Somme
- Battle of Albert (21-23 August 1918) – Somme
- The Battle of Drocourt-Queant (2-3 September 1918) – Arras, Pas-de-Calais

There is no reason why a Private of the Royal Marine Light Infantry would be recovered from a battlefield, or battlefield burial site, such a great distance from where he paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Details of Findings:

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Graves Registration Report Form* (GRRF) initially recorded only the name "BICKINSON J." in Plot 1 Row B Grave 35 of the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont (Attachment #1). At some time thereafter, a "red pen" entry was made to the report, at which time the surname changed the first letter from "B" to "D", the service number changed from "1357" to "1354", along with the rank, initials and date of death as "*Pte W. J. 28-4-17*".
2. The *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return* (COG-BR), recording the exhumation and reburial of Private Dickinson, was not in the collection maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC has previously advised us that a large number of these records for the Adanac Military Cemetery had been unintentionally destroyed or lost. In this particular case, all that the document would have revealed was that the remains were recovered from the Pys New British Cemetery (Attachment #2). That cemetery was located within the village of Pys **57c.M.2**.

Confirmation of the location of the Pys New British Cemetery was obtained from the one (1) set of records of [Private J. T. Stowell #CH/19177](#) of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. His COG-BR confirms that the remains were recovered from **57c.M.2.b.6.4**. His date of death was 25 August 1918, which agrees with the CWGC that Pys New British Cemetery was made in August and September 1918 and it is there where the "sailors and Marines" were buried.

Also noted by the CWGC was that the sole New Zealand casualty recovered from the Pys New British Cemetery was [Private Robert Edwin Hawkes #24/1679](#) of the Auckland Regiment. That agrees with the statements published by the CWGC, and confirms Pys New British Cemetery at **57c.M.2.b.6.4**. Another "seaman", identified as [Leading Seaman Ralph Thompson #R/3781](#) of the Hawke Battalion, was also recovered from that site.

3. The *Comprehensive Report of Headstone Inscriptions* (HD-SCHD) is typed, with no red pen entries, and states "*CH/1354(S) Private RMLI W. J. Dickinson Royal Naval Division 28 April 1917*" (Attachment #3). He is the only man on that sheet with a date of death of 28 April 1917.

There is only one (1) other man in the Adanac Military Cemetery that has a date of death in April 1917, namely [Private Albert Preston #657](#) of the 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry Force. He was killed by an accidental bomb explosion ([Casualty Report](#)) while the battalion was moving between Haplincourt **57c.O.3** and Doignies **57c.J.16** ([War Diary](#)). The GRRF reports that his remains were exhumed; however there is no COG-BR to provide the additional details. Haplincourt is approximately 13,000 yards due east of Pys. Doignies is 8,000 yards northeast of Haplincourt.

4. A *Google Earth* image provides a clear indication of the separation distance between Arras-Gavrelle (28 April 1917) and Grandcourt-Pys. There are two possible explanations for the movement of remains from a distant area to a local cemetery, neither of which applies in this case.
 - The soldier may have been a Prisoner of War (POW) and moved to a distant prison camp where he later died. There is no record of Private Dickinson as a POW.
 - The remains may have been recovered after the armistice and transported to the currently “open cemetery” for burial. There is no record of the remains of Private Dickinson being exhumed from a battlefield and moved to the cemetery.
5. An *Area Map* from the McMaster Lloyd Reeds Collection shows that the location from which the remains were reportedly exhumed from the Pys New British Cemetery, prior to concentration into the Adanac Military Cemetery (Attachment #5). Also marked on this map is the general area where the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division was in operations during February 1917 and August 1918. Clearly, these are the most logical dates for any remains to have been concentrated into the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont at **57d.R.18.a.3.4**.
6. The *CWGC Database* tells us that there are only two (2) men of the Royal Marine Light Infantry recorded as being buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont (Attachment #6a). [Private J. T. Stowell #CH/19177](#) was killed on 25 August 1918, while serving with the 1st/R.M.L.I. Private Dickinson, reported as the second man, was killed in action 16 months earlier, on 28 April 1917.

The same CWGC database tells us that there were one hundred and sixty-seven men of the 2nd/RMLI with a date of death of 28 April 1917, including Private Dickinson (Attachment #6b). All but ten (10) are listed on the Arras Memorial. The largest known group of five (5) is buried in the [Orchard Dump Cemetery](#) at **51b.B.10.b.80.45**, between Willerval and Arleux-en-Gohelle. The only man listed for the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont is Private Dickinson.

7. During March and April 1917 the Royal Naval Division moved a considerable distance north. The trek north in March of 1917 resulted in the 2nd Bn RMLI being at Ourton **36b.I.34** as of 11th April. They moved to Ecoivres **51c.F.13** on the 15th of the month (Attachment #7a).

Details from the *War Diary* of the 2nd/RMLI tell us that the unit was in the trenches at Gavrelle as of 22 April 1917 (Attachment #7b). There we see the 2nd/R.M.L.I. attacked the enemy trenches to the northeast of Gavrelle. Casualties were reported as heavy, including 25 ORs known dead and 387 missing. Private Dickinson is one of the 387 that were missing, a considerable distance away from where it is reported that his remains were found.

8. The *Historical Text* provides considerable support for the information derived from the war diary. Blumberg's on-line text "[Britain's sea soldiers. A record of the Royal marines during the war 1914-1919.](#)" refers to "Actions of Miraumont 17th and 18th February 1917" on page 323 (on-line version [page 397 of 588](#)). They are reported in the river Ancre sector north of the river, and just abreast of Grandcourt **57d.R.9** - 2 miles northeast of Thiepval (Attachment #8a). The text states that "two (2) companies of the 2nd/R.M.L.I. were lent to the first Battalion to form a defensive flank on the left". The remainder of the 2nd Battalion followed the second attacking wave of the 1st Battalion.

The text continues on page 327 (on-line version [page 401 of 588](#)) with the "Capture of Gavrelle (23-24 April)", as part of the Second Battle of the Scarpe. Gavrelle is at **51b.B.30 & 51b.C.25** – 6 miles northeast of Arras (Attachment #8b). The war diary continues on the same page with the "Battle of Arleux (28th and 29th April) Capture of Gavrelle Windmill." The 2nd/R.M.L.I. was to take the windmill and the German trenches to the south.

The evidence is clear that Private Dickinson was considerable distance from where the remains were reported recovered from the Pys New British Cemetery. The separation distance from Grandcourt (Somme Sector) to Gavrelle (Pas-de-Calais Sector) is more than 33,000 yards (18 miles) to the southwest.

9. The *Roll of Honour* of the Royal Naval Division contained information noting that the remains identified as Private William John Dickinson must be those of another person (Attachment #9). As noted in the *Preamble* to this report, we can only assume that an official report was never filed with the CWGC, as this error has never been corrected.

Unlike the case of Private Hilton, the prior researchers did not formulate a hypothesis as to the likely identity of the man named in the records as Private Dickinson. As there is no COG-BR for the exhumation, we do not know what information was initially available and thereafter what information was transferred to the GRRF. Based on the historical evidence, the logical answer is that the COG-BR identified a man by the name of "J. Bickinson". He may also have been identified as serving in the RND (Royal Naval Division).

10. A *Possible List of Candidates* for the remains that had been identified as those of Private Dickinson was investigated, following several avenues.

In the first instance, there is no casualty within the CWGC database for the surname "Bickinson", as first reported on the GRRF ([CWGC Link](#)). There are 427 for the name "Dickinson", of which 233 died in France. Three (3) of these men had naval affiliations and are named on the Thiepval Memorial ([CWGC Link](#)). Two (2) of these men have the same first initial "J" as that reported on the GRRF (Attachment #10). Both were killed in action on 4 February 1917 when the Drake and Hawke Battalions were in Puisieux Trench **57d.L.20 to 57d.R.8**, north of the River Ancre (war diary [page 39 of 189](#)). That places them very close to Adanac Military Cemetery at **57d.R.18**.

The most likely candidate is [Able Seaman James Dickinson Tyneside Z/3305](#) of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division, Drake Battalion, but there is no way to confirm that identity at this time. Further investigations will be undertaken, as there may be records noting his initial burial or subsequent exhumation location.

In order for the remains to be those of the Drake Battalion, his remains had to have come from some location other than the Pys New British Cemetery, as that was not in existence at the time of his death in February 1917 ([CWGC Link](#)). There is some support for this, as the "Dickinson Remains" were buried in Plot 1 with a number of Canadian casualties from September-October 1916. The majority of the August 1918 remains, of the men of the naval division, were buried in Plot 4. The only other deviation from this was the group burial of Able Seamen Hamilton, John, Randel, and Smith in 1.J.39 ([CWGC Link](#)). That joint burial (graves 38-39) also contains Private Draper (19th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, *attached Hawke Bn. R.N.D.*) and three (3) Unknown British Soldiers.

It is possible that a man could have been taken as a POW in one area of France and died in another, thus explaining the change in location. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) records that there were three (3) "Dickinson" men that were POWs or listed by the ICRC ([ICRC Link](#)): (all appear to have survived the war):

- i. R. Dickinson, from the Hawke Bn was [repatriated 29 November 1918](#)
- ii. Ralph Dickenson 2nd R.M.L.I. #PO/1466 [24 March 1918](#)
- iii. W. E. Dickinson R.M.L.I. #PLY/14217 [30 December 1917](#) at Cambrai

If the correct grave of Private William John Dickinson could be located, that would provide absolute confirmation that he was not buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery. To investigate this, a preliminary search was made of the [Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux-en-Gohelle](#) for any evidence that would suggest that Private Dickinson may be buried there with his comrades lost on 28 April 1917. All of the COG-BR documents for the cemetery were checked, several of which reported UNKNOWNS of the R.M.L.I. Several pages had multiple R.M.L.I. UNKNOWNS listed on the page. Even with a concentration on the men buried at **51b.C.25** (i.e. [COG-BR 2456328](#)) the list was too numerous to make a determination. Additional evidence may arise at some time in the future.

11. A *Headstone Photograph* was graciously provided by member Don Regiano of the Great War Forum (Attachment #11). In the original image provided, the headstone is in the lower right corner of the cemetery photograph. A cropped version of that reveals the inscription as:

CH/1354(S) PRIVATE RMLI
W. J. DICKINSON
ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION
28th April 1917

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #11).

The historical evidence provides clear and definitive proof that the remains in Plot 1 Row B Grave 35 of the Adanac Military Cemetery Miraumont cannot be those of Private William John Dickinson #CH/1354(S). There is insufficient information at present to determine the correct identity of the remains.

The headstone and records should be adjusted accordingly, resulting in the addition of Private Dickinson’s name to the Thiepval Memorial.

ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2229260.JPG>

GFp. **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.** 2.10.20 Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

3rd Area Serial No W/4339

REPORT No. 90. SCHEDULE No. 5c.

Commune: MIRAUMONT.

PLACE OF BURIAL ADANAC M.C.

22 NOV 1920

Map Reference 57d.R.18.a.3.4.

The following are buried here:— *Adanac* D/ Major.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 1 ROW "B" (Cont'd)						
24/Can	454138	TREVOR	Pte R.		All	24.
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.			Crosses	25.
24/Can <i>BN.</i>	142263	CLENDINING	Pte. W.	17.9.16	<i>com/LS/1884</i>	26.
24/-do-	408978	CAREY.	" P.	do.	<i>com/LS/1884</i>	27.
3/-do-	172192	HAY	" J.			28.
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.				29.
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN PRIVATE.				30.
29/Can	186174	PRALL—H	Pte. A.		<i>(24/1/16)</i>	31.
5/D.C.L.I."C"	1381	ROWE	" J.H.			32.
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN SOLDIER.				33.
C.E.F.		—do—				34.
2/R.M.I.B.N. <i>R.N.D.</i>	1354	DICKINSON	PTE. W.J.	28.4.17	<i>com/LS/1884</i>	35.
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN PRIVATE.				36.
C.E.F.		" SERGEANT.				37.
24/Can	142536	LYON	Pte R.H.			38.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				39.

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19. HWV(P1024) Forms/W3372/3

20.12.20
a.d. 11.12.20

ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return.*

History Information ([CWGC website](http://www.cwgc.org))

The villages of Miraumont and Pys were occupied on 24-25 February 1917 following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line. They were retaken by the Germans on 25 March 1918, but recovered the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division on the following 24 August. Adanac Military Cemetery (the name was formed by reversing the name "Canada") was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the Canadian battlefields around Courcellette and small cemeteries surrounding Miraumont, including:-

- **PYS BRITISH CEMETERY**, about two thirds of the way from Pys to Courcellette. It contained the graves of 22 soldiers from Canada, two from the United Kingdom and five of unknown Units, and a memorial to 33 men of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.
- **PYS NEW BRITISH CEMETERY**, in the village, made by the 42nd Division in August and September, 1918, and containing the graves of 35 soldiers (and sailors and Marines) from the United Kingdom and one from New Zealand.

Confirmation of the location of the Pys New British Cemetery at **57c.M.2.b.6.4**:
<https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1963318.JPG>

22.

MIRAUMONT 90-256
CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (EXHUMATION AND REBURIALS)

DUP

BURIAL RETURN.
Name of Cemetery of Reburial ADANAC BRITISH Map Ref. Sheet 57d.R.18.a.3.3. 4

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
7	J	11	57c.M.2.B.6.4.	Yes	R/3871 L/Sgt.A.THOMPSON Hawks Batt. R.N.D.	Cross G.R.U.	Nil
		12	ditto	Yes	23692 Dvr.W.BAILEY 37th Div. A.C.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		13	ditto	Yes	41253 Pte.A.T.WRIGHT 1/28 Londons Artists Rfs.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		14	ditto	Yes	19577 Pte.C.M.STAWALL R.W.L.I.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		15	ditto	Yes	02165 Pte.T.EDWARDS 1/8th Manchester	Cross G.R.U.	-
		16	ditto	Yes	247233 Gnr.F.Dovey D/210 Bde R.F.A.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		17	ditto	Yes	202124 Pte.E.HOLLAND 1/8th Manchester.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		18	ditto	Yes	24/1679 Pte.R.E.HAWKES 2/A.Z.R.N.Z. E.F.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		19	ditto	Yes	4/6235 Spr.J.W.CARTER 429/F.L.L.Co.R.E.	Cross G.R.U.	-
		20	ditto	Yes	290171 Pte.J.WILKINSON 1/7th North. Fus.	Cross G.R.U.	-

O/U Detachment Courcellette

Map Ref. Checked
Capt.
Commanding 119th Lab. Coy.

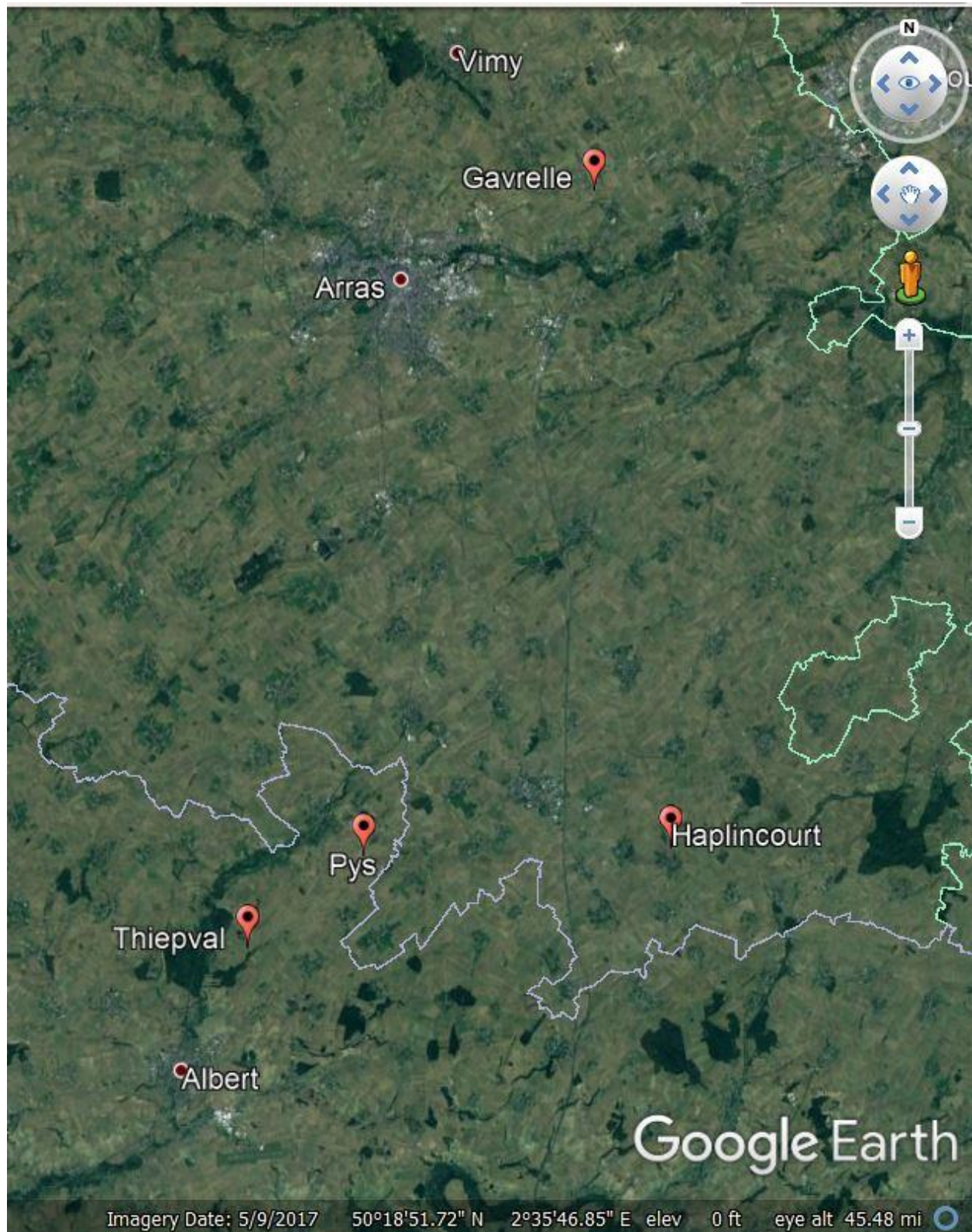
ATTACHMENT #3

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions.
<https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2064871.JPG>

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION					SCHEDULE "A" PAGE 5				
No. of Contract.....dated.....					NAME OF CEMETERY				
Name and address of Firm.					A.A.NAC MIL.CEM. "A"				
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS									
to this report is attached									
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS									
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)					To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:-				
and					A.A.N. M.C.				
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design.)									
Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st line	2nd line	3rd line	4th line	Centre of Stone	To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level.			
	Number and Rank	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment	Date of Death <small>In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.</small>	Age Relig. Emb.	Plot P. Row R of Grave G No. of Stone			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)			
1202/1A	184227	PRIVATE G.	MORRILL	31ST BN. CANADIAN INF.	14TH SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 21 #61			
LAYOUT 1H	UNKNOWN BRITISH	SOLDIER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 22 #62			
1202/1G	UNKNOWN CANADIAN	SOLDIER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 23 #63			
1202/1A	454318	PRIVATE R. TREVOR	24TH BN. CANADIAN INF.	17TH SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 24 #64				
1202/1G	UNKNOWN CANADIAN	SOLDIER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 25 #65			
1202/1A	142263	PRIVATE W. GLENDINNING	24TH BN. CANADIAN INF.	17TH SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 26 #66				
1202/1A	408978	PRIVATE P. CAREY	24TH BN. CANADIAN INF.	17TH SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 27 #67				
1202/1A	172192	PRIVATE J. HAY	3RD BN. CANADIAN INF.	14TH SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 28 #68				
1202/1G	UNKNOWN CANADIAN	SOLDIER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 29 #69			
1202/1G	UNKNOWN PRIVATE		(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 30 #70			
1202/1A	18174	PRIVATE A. PRALL	29TH BN. CANADIAN INF.	22ND SEPTEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 31 #71				
1013/1A	1381	PRIVATE J. ROWE	DUKE OF CORNWALL'S L.I.	21ST NOVEMBER 1916 NONE	CROSS 1 B 32 #72				
1202/1G	UNKNOWN SOLDIER		(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 33 #73			
1202/1G	UNKNOWN SOLDIER		(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)			1 B 34 #74			
1204/1A	CH/1354(S) PRIVATE RMLI. W.J. DICKINSON		ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION	28TH APRIL 1917 NONE	CROSS 1 B 35 #75				

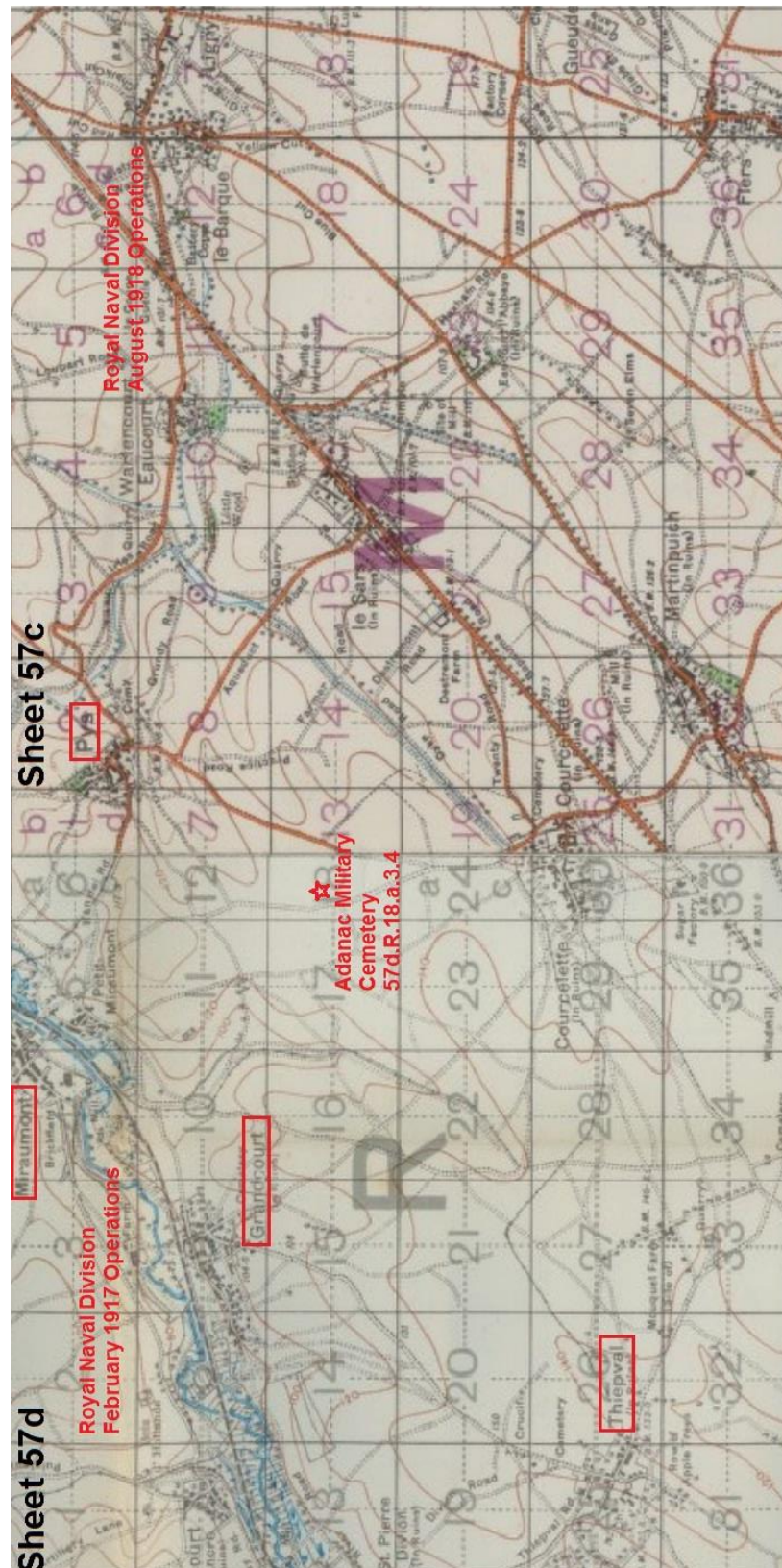
ATTACHMENT #4

Google Earth Image <https://www.google.com/earth/>
Locations of 2nd/R.M.L.I. in April 1917



ATTACHMENT #5

Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. [Albert] 57d and [Bapaume] 57c Consolidated Map by Author <https://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/ndx5to40.htm>



ATTACHMENT #6a

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*
[2nd Bn Royal Marine Light Infantry recorded for the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont.](#)

STOWELL Private CH/19177	J T	25 August 1918 ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT VII. J. 14.	VIEW RECORD Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
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DICKINSON Private CH/1354(S).	W J	28 April 1917 ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT I. B. 35.	VIEW RECORD Royal Marine Light Infantry United Kingdom
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ATTACHMENT #6b

Cemetery or memorial

- [ARRAS MEMORIAL \(157\)](#)
- [ORCHARD DUMP CEMETERY, ARLEUX-EN-GOHELLE \(5\)](#)
- [LIEVIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION \(2\)](#)
- [ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT \(1\)](#)
- [CANADIAN CEMETERY NO.2, NEUVILLE-ST. VAAST \(1\)](#)
- [DUISANS BRITISH CEMETERY, ETRUN \(1\)](#)

[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd \(Royal Naval\) Division Piece 3110/2: 2 Royal Marine Battalion \(1916 Jun - 1919 Apr\)](#)

Adanac Military Cemetery 1.B.35

ATTACHMENT #7a

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Piece 3110/2: 2 Royal Marine Battalion (1916 Jun - 1919 Apr)

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
2nd Bn Royal Marine Lt Col

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

2

April 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CURTON & ECOMVRES	April 14 th		Battalion moved by March Route to ECOMVRES and went into X.H. trenches here.	
ECOMVRES	15 th		working parties	
"	16 th		working parties	
"	17 th		working parties. Troop Capt J. N. M. B. Rose R.N. rejoined	
"	18 th		working parties. Capt M. A. POWER R.O.D.C. rejoined 1st Field Ambulance	
"	19 th		working parties	
"	20 th		working parties	
"	21 st		working parties. C. C. M. proceeded to ANZIN and went into Bille's Area	
Truvelon	22 nd		Battalion moved up to original enemy support line north of the AREAS - BAILLEUL Road. 189th Inf 4 Bde formed the	
"	23 rd		Bde in Bde Reserve for the taking of GAVRELLE	
"	24 th		GAVRELLE taken by 189th & 190th Inf Bde of 63rd (R.N.) Div. Bde at 3 hours notice.	
"	25 th		Moved up from Reserve trenches at 9 am and relieved 1st HAG & 6th BEDFORDS in the trenches and parts NORTH of GAVRELLE. Prisoner of 36th Prussian Guard Regt captured immediately after taking our post occupied by GERMANS	
"	26 th		Heavy hostile shelling during the forenoon, included in afternoon - one of our planes forced to land. 50.8 sent up in the evening on account of enemy counter attacking. Enemy disposed by our Reserve, Cassinette, traces killed other tanks 3 wounded other tanks 8.	

T2134. Wt. W708-775. 500000. 415. SH. J. C. & S.

ATTACHMENT #7b

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Royal Marines 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Piece 3110/2: 2 Royal Marine Battalion (1916 Jun - 1919 Apr)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAVRELLE Trenches	April 26 th		<p>Village heavily shelled all day. Aircraft active on both sides. One of our balloons set fire to house early in the afternoon. Casualties missing, but MARKHAM, killed other ranks 3 wounded other ranks 30</p> <p>Hostile artillery more than usually active during early morning. At about 8.30 a.m. one of our aeroplanes was brought down south of DOPPEL WOOD by hostile fire. It is believed to be probably probably ready for attack. Casualties killed other ranks 8. Wounded other ranks 14. Missing other ranks 9.</p> <p>Butt's attacked in 4 waves the enemy trenches N.E. of GAVRELLE with one platoon under the command of the 1st Lt. of the 2nd Bn.</p> <p>2nd Lt. NEWLING, detailed to take the trench and held it.</p> <p>Attack reached, but as 1st Bn. had not yet reached on their left were hung up, going to charge under machine gun.</p> <p>apparently by one, casualties were very heavy. Only two officers beside the Officer Command 84th who took part in the operations came out alive. Casualties killed Officers 1 other ranks 25 wounded other ranks 72. Missing Officers 8 other ranks 387.</p> <p>Situation unchanged. Enemy made several violent counter attacks. Casualties killed other ranks 14.</p> <p>2nd Bn. relieved by 1st Bn. at 8.18. Both Yorks. marched back to ST. CATHERINES.</p>	<p>Army Form C. 2118.</p> <p>2nd Bn. Royal Marine Light Infantry</p>
	April 27 th			
	April 28 th			
	April 29 th			
	April 30 th			

TJ134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/16. Sir J. C. & S.

A. H. Hutchinson
Lieut Colonel, R.M.L.I.
Commanding 2nd Bn. Royal Marine Light Infantry

ATTACHMENT #8a

[*Britain's sea soldiers. A record of the Royal marines during the war 1914-1919. "Actions of Miraumont 17th and 18th February 1917" page 323 \(on-line version \[page 397 of 588\]\(#\)\)*](#)

ACTIONS OF MIRAUMONT 17th and 18th February, 1917. (See Map 6.)

On 14/15 February, 1/R.M.L.I. relieved the 10/R.D.F. in the river Ancre sector north of the river, and just abreast of Grandcourt. "B" and "D" Companies in Puisieux Trench, headquarters in Puisieux sunken road north of Beaucourt. On 16th Battalion Headquarters moved forward to Puisieux trench and the Battalion lined up for attack at 10 p.m. The 188th Brigade had been ordered to complete the capture of the spur in front of Miraumont, which the 189th had seized on 3rd February.

The objective was the sunken road running north from Baillescourt Farm, about half a mile in front of the British front line; it included two strong points one known as "The Pimple." Posts were to be established 50 yards beyond the road; the trenches from which they were to attack were a line of shell holes joined in some places, but the trench system which had been battered out of all recognition lay on a large round topped hill with no landmarks of any kind, and during the days preceding the attack, ration parties, orderlies and patrols were constantly losing themselves.

The officers of the battalion in the attack were :—

Lieut.-Colonel Cartwright, Major H. Ozanne "D" Company (*wounded*), Major F. Wellesley* (*wounded*), Captains E. Huskisson (*wounded*), J. Pearson, Lieutenant H. W. Hall, A. C. Donne (*wounded*), L. W. Robinson (*killed*), Second-Lieutenants A. A. O'Kell (*killed*), F. Savage (*killed*), E. Sanderson (*wounded*), C. R. Burton (*killed*), W. C. Girdlestone (*wounded*), E. G. Coulson (*killed*), C. W. Rugg (*wounded*), R. E. Champness, F. W. A. Perry (*killed*), H. C. Brown (*killed*), Surgeon Unthank.

The 188th Brigade were to attack, the Howe on the right, 1/R.M.L.I. on the left; two companies of 2/R.M.L.I. were lent to the first Battalion to form a defensive flank on left.

ATTACHMENT #8b

[*Britain's sea soldiers. A record of the Royal marines during the war 1914-1919. "Actions of Miraumont 17th and 18th February 1917" page 323 \(on-line version \[page 401 of 588\]\(#\)\)*](#)

ALSO NOTE: This extract also refers to the actions of CSM Rogers, the UNKNOWN that was the origin of this research: [Company Sergeant Major Rogers Serre Road Cemetery No. 2 Plot 5 Row E Grave 25](#) (15 August 2019 – CWGC Case No. 631)

BATTLE OF ARLEUX (28th and 29th April) CAPTURE OF GAVRELLE WINDMILL.


On 28th the 1st and 2nd Battalions Royal Marines were ordered to attack; the objectives of 1/R.M.L.I. being the German trenches in their front, and of the 2/R.M.L.I. the Gavrelle Windmill and the German trenches to the south of it; The Ansons were to form a defensive flank on the right of 2/R.M.L.I. as the Army on the right was not to advance. 1/R.M.L.I. were to attack the line that ran from Oppy to Mericourt, and endeavour to come up into line with the 2nd Battalion, but as zero hour was fixed at the same time for both Battalions, it was obvious that the 2nd Battalion would have both flanks in the air at the commencement of the attack.

Dealing first with 1/R.M.L.I. "B" Company Major Huskisson had been sent on night 26/27 April to occupy a small isolated trench about midway between Oppy and Gavrelle (C-D on plan), which was done at 3 a.m. 27th; when the enemy's wire was reconnoitred it was found to be very strong and uncut, and the two runners with this information were unable to get through during the 27th owing to the heavy shelling; rations also were very short. The tape had been laid out for the attack of the Essex Regiment on their left, but that for 1/R.M.L.I. was not laid out by the R.E., consequently on the night of the attack Major Huskisson extended his company on the jumping off line for the Battalion to form on in prolongation of the Essex Regiment's tape; the objectives of the several companies are shown on plan 19, "B" Company having to pass through the others to attack the furthest objective. The company commanders were "A" Company, Lieutenant N. Lion (killed), "C" Company, Captain Goldsmith (died of wounds), "D" Company, Captain V. H. Jones (died of wounds), "B" Company Major Huskisson; C.S.M. Rogers (Chatham) rendered very good service with the guides in bringing up both the Essex Regiment and the 1/R.M.L.I. to the jumping off line and was awarded the Military Medal.

ATTACHMENT #9

[William John Dickinson in the Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924](#)

William John Dickinson in the Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924

 <p>No Image Text-only collection</p> <p>Add Alternative Information</p> <p>Report issue</p>	<table><tr><td>Name:</td><td>William John Dickinson</td></tr><tr><td>Service Branch:</td><td>Royal Marine Light Infantry</td></tr><tr><td>Unit:</td><td>2nd Royal Marine Bn.</td></tr><tr><td>Rank:</td><td>Private</td></tr><tr><td>Death Date:</td><td>28 Apr 1917</td></tr><tr><td>Cause of Death:</td><td>Missing, assumed dead</td></tr><tr><td>Burial:</td><td>Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont (FR 239)</td></tr><tr><td>Service History:</td><td>Enlisted Manchester 21/12/15 ; Embarked RM Brigade 28/6/16 ; Draft for BEF 1/2/17, joined 2nd RM Bn. 23/2/17-28/4/17 DD.</td></tr><tr><td>Service Number:</td><td>CH /1354 /S</td></tr><tr><td>Notes:</td><td>Not listed in "With Full & Grateful Hearts" ; Killed at Arras & buried on the Somme? The grave in Adanac Cemetery is almost certainly not his ; ADM/242/8 = Adanac M.C. Miraumont, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 35 ; A Cook ; b.Enniscorthy, Wexford 22/7/1892 ; Nephew of Mrs. Alice Wragg, of 671 Didsbury Rd., Heaton Mersey, Manchester.</td></tr></table> <div><input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/></div>	Name:	William John Dickinson	Service Branch:	Royal Marine Light Infantry	Unit:	2nd Royal Marine Bn.	Rank:	Private	Death Date:	28 Apr 1917	Cause of Death:	Missing, assumed dead	Burial:	Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont (FR 239)	Service History:	Enlisted Manchester 21/12/15 ; Embarked RM Brigade 28/6/16 ; Draft for BEF 1/2/17, joined 2nd RM Bn. 23/2/17-28/4/17 DD.	Service Number:	CH /1354 /S	Notes:	Not listed in "With Full & Grateful Hearts" ; Killed at Arras & buried on the Somme? The grave in Adanac Cemetery is almost certainly not his ; ADM/242/8 = Adanac M.C. Miraumont, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 35 ; A Cook ; b.Enniscorthy, Wexford 22/7/1892 ; Nephew of Mrs. Alice Wragg, of 671 Didsbury Rd., Heaton Mersey, Manchester.
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Source Information

Jack Marshall, comp., *Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924* [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

Original data: Jack Marshall, comp. *The Jack Clegg Memorial Database of Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War*.

Description

This database is a register of the deaths of Royal Navy servicemen who served in the Royal Naval Division (RND) in World War I (WWI). It was compiled from original service records and all other sources listing RND casualties. Information contained in this database includes: name of serviceman, service branch, unit, date of death, cause of death, service history, and burial information. [Learn more...](#)

ATTACHMENT #10

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*
[Naval Affiliation, Thiepval Memorial – Named as “J. Dickinson”](#)

DICKINSON
Able Seaman
Tyneside Z/3305

JAMES

04 February 1917
Age 19
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
Pier and Face 1 A.

VIEW RECORD
Royal Naval Volunteer
Reserve
United Kingdom

DICKINSON
Able Seaman
Tyneside Z/1489

JOSEPH JAMES

04 February 1917
Age 26
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
Pier and Face 1 A.

VIEW RECORD
Royal Naval Volunteer
Reserve
United Kingdom

ATTACHMENT #11

Headstone photograph courtesy of "Don Regiano" (member user name), Great War Forum
<https://www.greatwarforum.org/photograph>

Original Photograph
(headstone lower right corner)



Cropped Photograph



ATTACHMENT #12

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Commonwealth Forces during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

This process differs from cases related to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) as these do not go first to the CWGC Canadian Agency in Ottawa. We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

Guideline Criteria for Submission:	Evidence and Source Material:
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources <i>e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.</i> must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material <i>e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.</i> should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources. Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator & Report Author

The author gratefully acknowledges the research information and guidance provided in this investigation by members of the [Great War Forum](#) who have chosen to remain anonymous. It is acknowledged that the investigation of matters pertaining to the Royal Naval Division as “*Sea Soldiers*” differs considerably from the investigation of regular army soldiers.